Contingency Plan wbich mainly included sowing of pulses, coarse grains and certain oilseeds in place of paddy. So far, 3 lakh MTs of rice has been allocated to the State in addition to release in advance in August of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) amounting to Rs. 81.885 crore, due in November.

Facilities for drought hit farmers in A.P.

343. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether special facilities wers extended by Government to the farmers of Andhra Pradesh, who were affected by recent drought conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the role played by the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) In so far as the Central Government assistance for the relief in the event of Natural Calamities including droughts is concerned, it is given under the scheme of 'Financing Relief Expenditure' laid down by the 11th Finance Commission. The scheme envisages assistance to States primarily from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for each State to be funded by the Central and the State Government concerned in the ratio of 3:1. In the event of a severe calamity, additional assistance is admissible from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) as per the procedure laid down under the NCCF scheme. These schemes are common to all States and envisage no special facilities for a particular State.

Setting up of Agriculture Finance Corporation

344. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of formulating agricultural policy with 20 per cent as budgetary support and 25 per cent of the

total loans earmarked for the sector by commercial banks;

(b) if so, the details of such proposal;

(c) whether Government are also thinking of setting up of an Agricultural Finance Corporation in each State; and

(d) if so, what are the saiient features of the proposed corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Government of India has formulated a National Agricultural Policy which envisages a growth rate of 4 per cent per annum and adequate credit support from banks in the agricultural sector.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Promoting use of Bio-fertilizers

345. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to undertake concrete steps to promote use of Bio-fertilizer, Bio-manure, micro-nutrients, as a supplement to chemical fertilizers;

(b) if so, the reasons for closing down operation of eight Bio-fertilizer units under Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division (FP & ARD) of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation;

(c) whether Ministry propose to take over the above units and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) under HFC; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Government promotes to soil test based judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with Bio-fertilizers and organic manures as